

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A web-fed rotary printing press, comprising:

at least one press cylinder for printing a paper web conveyed at a controllable first tensile stress;

a dryer disposed downstream of said press cylinder, said dryer including a plurality of nozzle bars disposed on both sides of the web guiding the web along a meander-like path, the nozzle bars being spaced apart and offset from one another;

a pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer for conveying the paper web along said meander-like path under a second tensile stress;

a first apparatus disposed downstream of said press cylinder and upstream of said dryer for separating the paper web from said press cylinder during a normal printing operation, said separating of the paper web from said press cylinder being decoupled from the conveying of said paper web along said path;

a second apparatus for driving said pull roll at a controllable rotational speed which sets said second tensile stress; and

a controller coupled to said at least one press cylinder and to said second apparatus, said controller setting said first tensile stress and said second tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is less than said first tensile stress.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 1, wherein said controller sets said first tensile stress and said second tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is 10% or less than said first tensile stress.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 1, wherein said first apparatus for separating the paper web from said press cylinder separates the paper web from said press cylinder without contact.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 3, wherein said first apparatus has at least one element selected from the group consisting of blowing elements and ultrasound elements.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 1, wherein the web-fed rotary printing press is a web-fed rotary offset press.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 1, wherein said first apparatus for separating the paper web from said press cylinder is configured or coated in an ink-repellent manner, at least in some sections.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A web-fed rotary printing press, comprising:

- at least one press cylinder for printing a paper web conveyed under a controllable first tensile stress;

- a dryer disposed downstream of said press cylinder, said dryer including a plurality of nozzle bars disposed on both sides of the web guiding the web along a meander-like path, the nozzle bars being spaced apart and offset from one another;

- a first pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer to convey the paper web along the meander-like path under a second tensile stress;

- a second pull roll, which is disposed downstream of said press cylinder and upstream of said dryer, for releasing the paper web during a normal printing operation and for controllably setting a third tensile stress on the paper web between the at least one press cylinder and said second pull roll;

- an apparatus for driving said first pull roll at a controllable rotational speed which sets said second tensile stress; and

- a controller coupled to said at least one press cylinder and to said apparatus, said controller setting said first tensile stress and said second tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is less than said first tensile stress.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein

said controller sets said first tensile stress and said second tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is 10% or less than said first tensile stress.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein said second pull roll is configured or coated in an ink-repellent manner, at least in some sections.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein said first pull roll is a cooling roll.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein said first and second pull rolls are in each case constructed as a driven, rotating element.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein said first pull roll and said press cylinder are in each case constructed as a driven, rotating element.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press according to claim 7, wherein the web-fed rotary printing press is a web-fed rotary offset press.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for treating a printing material web in a printing material web in a web-fed rotary printing press, which further comprises:

feeding a paper web to a press cylinder under a first controllable tensile stress;

printing on the paper web using the press cylinder;

conveying the paper web along a drying path under a second controllable tensile stress of the paper web which is controllably set to be equal to or less than 10% of the first controllable tensile stress, the drying path being established by a plurality of nozzle bars disposed on both sides of the web guiding the web along a meander-like path, the nozzle bars being spaced apart and offset from one another; and

separating the paper web from the press cylinder during a normal printing operation, the separating of each paper web from the press cylinder being decoupled from the conveying of the paper web along the path.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises setting the second controllable tensile stress to a value suitable for conveying the paper web after separation from the press cylinder.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises conveying the paper web along the drying path composed of path parts which follow one another and are oppositely curved.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises controlling the second controllable tensile stress such that the drying path is composed of path parts which follow one another and are oppositely curved.

Claims 18 and 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises controlling the second controllable tensile stress such that the drying path has a radii of curvature following one another of in each case less than 200 mm.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises increasing a temperature of the paper web along the drying path.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, which further comprises controlling the second controllable tensile stress such that the drying path is substantially sinusoidal.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A web-fed rotary printing press, comprising:

- at least one press cylinder for printing a paper web conveyed under a controllable first tensile stress;

- a dryer disposed downstream of said press cylinder, said dryer including a plurality of nozzle bars disposed on both sides of the web guiding the web along a meander-like path, the nozzle bars being spaced apart and offset from one another;

- a first pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer to convey the paper web along the path

under a controllable second tensile stress;

a second pull roll disposed downstream of said press cylinder and upstream of said dryer for releasing the paper web during a normal printing operation and for controllably setting a third tensile stress on the paper web between the at least one press cylinder and said second pull roll;

an apparatus for driving said first pull roll at a controllable rotational speed to set said second tensile stress; and

a controller coupled to said apparatus and to said second pull roll for controlling said second tensile stress and said third tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is less than said third tensile stress.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press of claim 24, wherein the controller controls said second tensile stress and said third tensile stress such that said second tensile stress is 10% or less than said third tensile stress.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press of claim 24, wherein said controller is also coupled to at least one press cylinder for controlling said first tensile stress.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The web-fed rotary printing press of claim 25, wherein said controller sets said third tensile stress to be greater than said first tensile stress.